28 MAY 1918
MADRAS

Vol. I. No. 8.] [April 13 1918.

Madura Young Men.

My heart leaps up to behold each face,
For I am a neighbour to all the race
And a fellow-townsman of all mankind.
HENRY G. BARNETT.

THE SCOUTS.

We are fortunate in having with us this month a Scout of four years' standing, T. Raja Bushanam, a member of the Wolf Patrol, 2nd Troop, Jaffna Boy Scouts, and a First Class Scout. He and Mr. T. Rajah James went out on Monday of last week on an early morning expedition with a number of enthusiasts. It is hoped that there will be several good outings during the month, and that a number of candidates will qualify themselves for passing the Tenderfoot test.

THE MUSIC CLASS.

The sound of the harmonium, kindly lent to us for the hot weather by the American High School, is a regular feature of the evening proceedings. Along with the mysterious signs and symbols on the blackboard, it testifies to the interest taken in the music class conducted by Mr. Rajah James. There are two or three promising young organists of the future among the lot.

Perhaps some day we shall have a class in Indian music also.

By the way, we would commend the attention of our readers to the current number of "Young Men of India," which has five splendid articles on the music of India. Look for it on our reading-table, or secure a copy from Association Press, 5, Russell Street, Calcutta.

THE FIRST AID CLASS.

A number of lectures have been given in this course to an interested group, on bandaging, fractures and other topics. Mr. Devaraj, Sub Assistant Surgeon, of the Municipal Hospital, has been generously giving his time and enthusiasm to this class. Through the courtesy of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Major D. G. Rai, I.M.S., the charts of the St. John's Ambulance Society have been loaned for one month, and make the lectures more useful. This class has been meeting in the evenings at seven, for half an hour.

THE SCHOOLS.

The Night-School is continuing its sessions steadily, two trained teachers being in charge. There will be a vacation of two weeks during the latter half of May. The Secondary School will re-open on June 3rd. 173 pupils were on the rolls at the end of the session. Another good year's work is looked for, under the headmastership of Mr. P. Samuel.

COMMERCIAL CLASSES.

A new venture is that of classes in shorthand, book-keeping and commercial correspondence, which are to be conducted by Mr. Venkatasubramanian from the beginning of June. These classes will be held in the early morning, from 7 o'clock to 9-30, so that students may get away to their office work or other occupations in good time. It will also enable the teacher to use the blackboards, desks and other equipment which are in demand later in the day by the Day School and Night School.

We hope to find a few more methods still for utilizing our versatile school hall!

DRAUGHTS TOURNAMENT.

One use of the Hall is for the playing of indoor games in the evenings. A week ago a tournament was conducted in Draughts. Several close and very interesting games were held. It is hoped to play off other tournaments in the near future. Chess, Ping pong and other games lend themselves readily to contests of this kind.

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THE SUNDAY MEETINGS.

Many of the members of the Senior Religious Discussion Group have left town for the hot weather, and the meetings on Sunday morning have been adjourned till after the vacation. The Sunday evening services, however, which have been organized by the Group, will continue at the West Gate Church. The Pastor, Rev. James Rowland, is co-operating heartily. The first two services were taken by Messrs. A. Ponnaya, B.A., B.L., and J. I. Manickavasagam, B.A., L.T. Mr W. B. Rowland presides at the organ most acceptably.

THE HOSTEL.

The rearrangement of our premises and the more complete use of our school hall for reading-room and indoor games room, has increased our hostel accommodation. Applications for places from the beginning of June will be received by the Warden, Hostel, Y.M.C.A. The rates will be advanced slightly for this year, as they have been abnormally low heretofore.

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THE "BOOKSHOP."

The Christian Literature Society has opened its doors to the purchasing public in its new quarters, and has already begun business. As the time approaches for the re-opening of Schools and Colleges, many will find it convenient to secure their supplies from Mr. V. Israel at the depot. The Bookshop carries a large stock of books and stationery of many sorts. The shop is located on the first floor of our hostel building, and the entrance is at the street corner.

HERE AND THERE IN INDIA.

One of the most useful pieces of work the Y.M.C.A. is performing for the troops in India is the arranging of suitabe furlough quarters for them when they leave their various stations for a few weeks and go elsewhere to see a bit of India. This is being done on a very large scale in many centres in the North of India.

We have recently received a letter from one of secretaries in Delhi, setting forth the advantages of that city as a sight-seeing place, describing the arrangements made during the hot weather for soldiers on furlough, and asking us to send our soldier friends to the Association hostel, where they will find tennis, punkahs and various other advantages. But these are not the days of Pandyan or Naik kings in Madura, and our military population is far too small to spare any for Delhi! At last count there were said to be two soldiers in Madura!

The Rangoon Y.M.C.A. has been able to pay off debentures during the past year amounting to Rs. 59 500, through the generous gifts of friends. It is hoped to pay off the remainder of the debenture, Rs. 28,000 during the next financial year.

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